

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00681 160646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 DODE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 /079 W
-----161312Z 053170 /40

R 151510Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USUN NEW YORK 538
USMISSION BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0681

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, CSCE, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: DEATH OF JAN PATOCKA

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REF PRAGUE 0652

1. ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE FROM WESTERN NEWS SERVICES THAT DR. JAN PATOCKA, CHARTER 77 SPOKESMAN AND MOST ACTIVE ORGANIZER, DIED LAST WEEKEND. HE HAD BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL SINCE THE EVENING OF MARCH 3, FOLLOWING A 10-HOUR INTERROGATION BY CSSR SECURITY CONCERNING HIS MEETING WITH NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER (REFTEL).

REPORTED CAUSE OF DEATH WAS A STROKE. AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT ACCURACY OF THAT REPORT OR TO BELIEVE THAT 60-YEAR OLD PATOCKA HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY MALTREATED, EXCEPT FOR THE LENGTH OF TIME INVOLVED DURING HIS INTERROGATION.

2. WE ARE TOLD THAT THERE WILL BE A BRIEF SERVICE FOR PATOCKA MARCH 15, THAT HE WILL BE BURIED MARCH 16 AT THE CEMETARY NEXT TO SVATA MARKETA MONASTERY IN THE BREVNOV DISTRICT OF PRAGUE AND THAT A MEMORIAL MASS WILL BE HELD AT SVATA MARKETA MARCH 18.

3. CHARTER 77 SUPPORTERS ARE CONSIDERABLY UPSET BY LOSS OF PATOCKA, WHICH HAS DEPRIVED THEM OF A PARTICULARLY ENERGETIC LEADER AT A TIME WHEN THE REGIME IS APPLYING HEAVY PRESSURE AND BLOCKING ACCESS TO OTHER LEADERS, INCLUDING HAJEK, MLYNAR AND KRIEGAK. EMBOFF WHO SAW SOME CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS SOCIALLY MARCH 14 FOUND THEM FEELING SOMEWHAT AIMLESS AND UNDECIDED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

4. FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE MOST REVEALING OF SOLIDARITY OF CHARTER SIGNERS, WHO NOW NUMBER OVER 600 AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 800, AND OF THE WAY THE REGIME IS LIKELY TO HANDLE THE ISSUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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